extent of appreciation/depreciation(—)of rupee against US dollar is given below:—

Month	Rs/US dollar (PeriodAvg.)	App/Dep.(—) of rupee *(%)*
March 01	46.62	—0.21
April 01	46.78	—0.34
May 01	46.92	—0.30
June 01	47.00	-0.17
July 01	47.14	-O.30
August 01	47.13	0.02
September 01	47.64	—1.07
October 01	48.02	—0.79

(d) The day-to-day movements in exchange rates are largely determined by demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market in India. The developments in the financial markets in India and abroad are monitored closely both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and appropriate measures are taken, when necessary, to reduce excessive volatility in the exchange rate, prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, develop an orderly foreign exchange market conditions and to help maintain adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

Collection Trend off Major Revenue

227. SHRIPRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the trend of collection of major revenue of Government in the first seven months of the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the aggregate tax revenue collected by Government has never reached the estimated figure projected at the presentation of Budget (BE stage) since 1998; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Tax collection during the first six months of the current financial year has provisionally amounted to Rs. 77422 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Several exogenous factors such as instability of crude prices, natural disasters such as the Gujarat Earthquake, and slow growth in the economy, have affected the tax collections.

Transaction of Dollars by. Banks

228. SHRISANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it js a fact that only American Banks can carry out final transactions in Dollars and no Indian Bank can carry out dollar transaction without intermediation of an American Bank;

(b) if so, the reasons why only Indian Banks cannot be permitted to carry out final transaction in rupee;

(c) the reasons why foreign banks or foreign entities handling rupee funds or transacting rupee cannot be required to deposit equivalent Foreign Exchange in "NOSTRO ACCOUNT" in authorised Indian Banks; and

(d) the reasons why this foreign exchange remain in RBI reserve and banks get accommodation in rupee from RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PAUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that all financial settlement of transactions in US Dollar have to be put through by banks based in USA and that banks in India open Dollar account which are known as Nostro account with banks in USA to facilitate these transactions. Transactions, denominated in US Dollar have to be settled in US Dollar only.

(c) RBI has reported that all foreign banks which are required to handle rupee based transaction have to maintain Vostro account with their Corresponding Banks in India and these Vostro accounts are funded by inward remittance of funds in foreign exchange from abroad.

(d) RBI has further reported that since 1993 there is no requirement on the part of any bank (Authorised Dealer) to surrender any foreign exchange